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ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU TO HOST 'RULES FOR THE ROAD' TRUCKING SEMINAR IN ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

Illinois Farm Bureau will host a series of two-hour programs focusing on transportation laws and regulations as they pertain to the agricultural industry.

Rock Island County Farm Bureau will host one of the sessions on Tuesday, February 27th at 10:00 a.m. at the Camden Centre in Milan.

The Rules for the Road Seminar will cover recent changes, as well as some of the more established but still misunderstood rules. Topics may include the USDOT Number, UCR registration, Entry Level Driver Training, farm exemptions, and driver's license classifications to name a few. In addition, one of the events will also be broadcast virtually on March 5th at 10 am. "These presentations take a closer look at the rules and provide an opportunity for farmers to ask ag-related trucking questions that they can't seem to find clear answers for," said Rodney Knittel, IFB Associate Director of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Knittel specializes in farm transportation issues and will lead the seminar series and will be joined by

Illinois enforcement agencies.

Rules for the Road seminars are open to all Illinois Farm Bureau members. Attendance is free, courtesy of the Rock Island County Farm Bureau and Illinois Farm Bureau, but advance registration is required. Coffee, water and donuts will be provided. Please call your local county farm bureau to reserve your place at the Rules for the Road Seminar by Friday, February 23rd.

Registration opens February 1st. For more information, contact the Rock Island County Farm Bureau at 309-736-7432 or tmayhew@ricofarmbureau.org.

The Illinois Farm Bureau is a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation, a national organization of farmers and ranchers. Founded in 1916, IFB is a non-profit, membership organization directed by farmers who join through their county Farm Bureau. IFB has a total membership of more than 364,452 and a farmer membership of 75,959. IFB represents three out of four Illinois farmers.

Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship Applications Open

The Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation is pleased to announce the 2024 scholarship line up. Available scholarships include RICFB Foundation Scholarship, Keppy Scholarship awarded by the

Wilbert and Carol Keppy Charitable Foundation, Kenneth Bush Memorial Scholarship awarded by the Marilyn Bush Family, and the George and Irene Stulz Family Scholarship awarded by the George and Irene Stulz Family. Applications will open Jan. 9 and are due by 4 p.m. March 22, 2024. For more information, guidelines and application, visit www.ricofarmbureau.org/scholarships.html.

Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga to Headline Women in Agriculture Conference

The Women in Agriculture Conference committee is excited for the 2024 Women in Agriculture Conference. Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga will headline for the annual Women in Agriculture Conference in Rock Island on Friday, March 22, 2024. Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga is a Professor of Agribusiness in Agribusiness in the Regina Roth Applied Agricultural and Food Studies Department at Morningside University since August 2018. Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga's research on Gender Assessment of the Agricultural Sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2012 helped her understand that the fight against hunger and malnutrition of one widow and her children.

Leader Tony McCombie will be the featured mid-day speaker. In January 2023, Leader McCombie began her fourth term of office as State Representative and first term as Leader of the House. She is also the first woman to serve as House Republican Leader in Illinois. Please join Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton and House Leader Tony McCombie for a listening session.

Closing out the conference is Annaliese Wegner. Also known as Modern-day Farm Chick, is a dairy farmer, mother, wife and AGvocate. Through social media, speaking, workshops, retreats and events, Annaliese helps others in agriculture effectively share their farm story in an effort to bridge the gap from farm to table.

The conference will host a variety of breakout sessions with topics including aquaponics, landowner rights, tax law and planning, local food markets, and mental health on the farm just to name a few.

Programming Efforts Awarded

Rock Island County Farm Bureau was recently recognized during the 109th Annual Meeting of the Illinois Farm Bureau for their outstanding programming.

CAE recognized programs carried out between Sept. 1, 2022, and Aug. 31, 2023.

The Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for recognition of outstanding achievement by individual members and county Farm Bureaus (CFBs).

Awards given have been evaluated under the County Activities of Excellence (CAE), Young Leaders and Harvest for All programs. The goals of the CAE program are to recognize CFBs for program excellence, encourage & assist CFBs in setting goals and priorities, inspire and promote innovative programming to meet member needs, promote programming in key areas, and to provide a resource to counties for the purpose of developing new programs.

The Excellence Award is given to the county with the most outstanding project for each program area. Excellence Awards encompassed eight program areas: Ag Literacy, Farm Income and Development, Health

and Safety, Advocacy, Local Affairs, Engagement and Outreach, Membership Value, Foundations and Fundraising, Young Leaders and Harvest for All.

Rock Island County Farm Bureau was recently awarded the following:

- **Most Outstanding Program in Advocacy for Conversations and Combine Rides.** This was a program we did in the Fall of 2022 with the Rock Island County Board. We worked with the chairman and scheduled 1-hour visits on our directors' farms with the county board directors. They had the opportunity to ride in a combine and experience first-hand what harvest looks like. This program allowed the opportunity for one-on-one conversations with our directors about their farms, issues that are important to them and how we can work together for the betterment of our county as a whole.
- **Most Outstanding Program in Engagement and Outreach for Family Farmapalooza.** This was a program that was done with the Rock Island Soil & Water Conservation District in July. It was a free event that was marketed toward our non-ag residents. Attendees had the opportunity to fish, see production livestock in person, go on a nature hike through

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

- 1 Office closed for New Year's Day
- 8 Women in Agriculture Conference registration opens
- 14-16 QCCA Farm Show
- 15 RICFB Board of Directors meeting
- 31 Bushels for Hunger campaign ends

FEBRUARY

- 8 Emergency Planning for your Farm seminar
- 19 RICFB Board of Directors meeting
- 20 Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference
- 28 Rules for the Road seminar
- 29 Last day to register for Women in Agriculture Conference at the \$70 discounted rate (fee goes up March 1!)

Attending the QCCA Farm Show?

Stop by our booth to show your membership card and receive a voucher for a FREE pulled pork sandwich from the concession stand!

We'll have membership information, goodies, a chance to put your name in our drawing, and the opportunity to visit with our leadership. If manager Tara is around, you can even pay your dues! The Farm Show runs Jan 14-16 at the QCCA Expo Center.

Included in the day is an exhibit area, with many businesses and organizations offering materials, promotional items, and give-away drawings, a breakfast and luncheon buffet and mid-day snack break. Conference cost prior to February 29 is \$70. March 1 through March 15 the cost is \$90. Registrations taken March 16 through the day of the conference will cost \$100. If paying by check registration and payment must be received by February 29, 2024. Registration the day of the conference begins at 8am. To pre-register, contact any sponsoring Illinois County Farm Bureaus or register online at womeninagricultureconference.com.

Pre-registration for the event begins on January 8, 2024. More details can be found at womeninagricultureconference.com. This Conference is sponsored by the Farm Bureau Women in Agriculture Conference Committee.

the managed timber, view various pieces of farm equipment, take a hayrack ride around the farm, learn about cover crops, try their hand at archery, visit a pollinator plot, see a streambank stabilization table and spin a wheel for ag trivia. Presentations were also given on soil health and conservation practices. The event finished up with a free hog roast meal.

- We were also recognized for reaching our farm member quota.

Another successful IAA Annual Meeting in the books!



Representing RICFB at the IAA Annual Meeting are L-R: Representative Gregg Johnson, Dennis VanDaele, Marty McManus, Dave Mueller, Trent Uphoff, manager Tara Mayhew